



– For Immediate Release –
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IIMPACT detectives investigate two west Phoenix drop houses *Six victims rescued, one suspected human smuggler arrested*

On January 22, 2009, Phoenix Police investigated a report that three people had knocked on a woman's door in west Phoenix and asked to use the phone. They told her they had escaped from a house in which they were being held against their will. Police Officers located four hispanic males and one hispanic female in the area who guided them to the home located at 4902 W. Sheridan Street in Phoenix. After gaining entry, the officers noticed the bedroom windows were fortified and that there was blood leading from outside the residence to the sidewalk. IIMPACT detectives took over the investigation after a possible suspect was found walking along a busy street with a head injury. Later interviews revealed there were about 30 to 50 illegal aliens inside the residence when they decided to overpower the human smuggler.

A search of the home revealed a 9 millimeter handgun, smuggling ledgers, and Western Union receipts.

Suspect: Andres Tabon-Valiente, 28, Mexican National

Charges: Kidnapping, Theft by Extortion, Armed Robbery, Human Smuggling, Misconduct Involving Weapons

Victims Rescued: Maria Rosario Garcia-Calderon, Abelardo Morales-Soto, Jose Solome Luna-Molina, Antonio Luna-Calva, Francisco Luna-Calva - all were Mexican Nationals.

In an unrelated case on January 23, 2009, IIMPACT detectives responded to 6005 N. 32nd Avenue in Phoenix after Phoenix Police discovered a male Mexican National bound and gagged in a closet. Everyone else had fled including victims and suspects. Fortification was found in the residence.

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

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